



# At Work

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## Utilities encourages future public servants at the 2nd Annual Bring Your Child to Work Day

The children of Department of Utilities employees ooo-ed, ahhh-ed, squealed, and dodged water spray as they watched demonstrations of what their parents and grandparents do at work all day. It was all part of Utilities' 2nd Annual Bring Your Child to Work Day (BYCTWD), held Thursday, April 27th at Moores Bridges Water Treatment Plant.

Bring Your Child to Work Day is a national event held annually on the 4th Thursday of April. More than 50 adults and children, including facilitators, volunteers, and parents were present at Moores Bridges Water Treatment Plant to celebrate the day.

Some of the children, and most of the facilitators, were return participants from last year.

"I had to come back this year," said Ishmael Nottingham, son of Quinton Nottingham of the Bureau of Engineering. "It was fun last year, and I learned a lot."

The day began with breakfast, a warm welcome from Stephanie Tinsley, Assistant Director of Utilities, an entertaining overview of the department, and some morning mealtime magic by Razzle Dazzle the Clown, who is Utilities Engineering Technician Susan Moore in her other life.

The children spent the rest of the morning, participating in 14 demonstrations and activities that illustrated the functions of the Department of Utilities, from treating the water that comes into the plant to cleaning the system that takes the wastewater away from their



*Daniel Speer is all smiles as he gets an insider's view of the Vector truck.*



*Water Chemist Sheryll Bradford shows volunteers from the audience how to conduct one of the hundreds of tests the lab performs each day.*



*Above: With extinguishers ready and on hand, Safety Manager John Tokarz teaches the water hose brigade about water and fire suppression.*

*At left: Water Distribution's Thomas King gets a hand from Jack Saunders in turning off the water after his tapping demonstration.*

**Work Day** from the front.

houses. They saw how Water Distribution employees tap lines, how Customer Service representatives take care of citizens' accounts, and how Engineers read drawings. They also were acquainted with the all-important support divisions, like Management Services, Accounting and Budget, and Technology.

This year's event included three new features, an art contest, an essay contest, and a virtual tour of the



**Contest winners:** (Lt. to rt.) Ryan Speer (2nd Place, Essay), Dai'Ja Norman (1st Place, Essay), Daniel Speer (1st Place, Art), Ishmael Nottingham (3rd Place, Essay). **Not pictured:** Ian Dailey (3rd Place, Art), Imani Dailey (2nd Place, Art).

department.

"These additions were planned as a result of the survey we conducted after last year's event," said Geraldine Jones-Dailey, BYCTWD Coordinator. "The entries were accepted ahead of time, and the children did not have to attend the event to win. Five volunteers from various divisions of the Department judged the entries based on content and creativity."

National Bring Your Child to Work Day was developed to provide young men and women an introduction to business and its functions, allow them to observe their parents and other employees in a variety of roles and responsibilities, and



Jose Arrocho of Water Accounts Field Operations shows the kids the different water meters used throughout the City.

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## The City of Norfolk 2006 Water Quality Report



Again, Norfolk's Drinking Water  
meets all government standards!



Representing the Division of Water Accounts Customer Service, Alechia Norman explains what the Customer Service representatives do every-day to ensure Quality Service from the Department of Utilities.

reinforce the importance of teamwork and diversity in the workplace. This day has evolved into an event that introduces children to the professional services their parents provide and encourages them to consider future careers in that industry.

John Tokarz, Utilities Safety Manager, was a returning presenter at Bring Your Child to Work Day.

"What impresses me about this is the team spirit it builds," said Tokarz. "The parents are so proud of their children and the kids are enthusiastic about what their parents do at work. As adults, we need that shot in the arm of support from this unexpected source, the children."

"I can tell the event is a success when I look at the children and see the excitement and intrigue in their faces," Jones-Dailey said. "The fact that the employees are excited about it and wanted to return as presenters also tells me this is a good event. It does as much for us as employees as it does for the children because it builds camaraderie, and that's visible to the children, as well."♦